

May 17, 2019

Mr. Donald Harrison,  
Senior Inspector of Mines–Permitting, SW Region  
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources  
3rd Floor - 1810 Blanshard Street  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8T 4J1

Reference: Imperial Metals Corporation, Notice of Application for a permit approving the amended mine plan and reclamation program for the Giant Copper Property, Mine No. 0700195

Dear Senior Inspector Harrison:

I write to express the state of Washington's concerns with the Imperial Metals Corporation's application to conduct exploratory mining in the headwaters of the Skagit River.

Mining in the headwaters of the Skagit River represents an unacceptable risk to a river that remains a bulwark to dwindling salmon and key to the cultural, environmental, and economic health of the region.

The Skagit River is the largest watershed in Puget Sound and provides important habitat for all five species of Pacific salmon, three of which are listed as threatened. A healthy Skagit River is essential for sustaining the ecosystem of Puget Sound, securing treaty rights that are at risk for tribes in Washington, and maintaining drinking water for local communities. It is home to more than half of Puget Sound's Chinook salmon, which in turn feed our endangered orca, the southern resident killer whales.

The recovery of Skagit River Chinook is not just a local issue, but one of regional and international importance. Federal, state, and local salmon recovery partners have invested millions of dollars to support salmon recovery in the Skagit watershed. The threat of metal contamination moving down river from mining at the headwaters presents an unacceptable risk to this investment and to the natural resources shared by both the Province and the State.

Mining in the Upper Skagit River watershed is also contrary to the United States-Canada High Ross Treaty of 1984. The Treaty commits us to "conserve and protect wilderness and wildlife habitat in the river." Under the terms of the Treaty, and the related agreement between British Columbia and the City of Seattle, I believe that the intended and right outcome is public ownership of these lands and their preservation in a natural state. The State remains in full support of the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission's work to achieve this outcome. I

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believe that the proposed mining activity is inconsistent with the spirit and letter of our agreements, and the mutual efforts of the last three decades.

I value the excellent working relationship between our governments, and appreciate the partnership we enjoy in advancing our many common values and goals. I believe these common values extend to the protection of lands that make up the natural heritage of this region. I hope you agree with this essential public charge and responsibility.

Given the significant risks that mining would pose to the region, and the commitment our governments made to preserve the natural values of these lands, I urge you to deny the permit application.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee", written in a cursive style.

Jay Inslee  
Governor

CC: The Honorable John Horgan, Premier, Province of British Columbia  
The Honorable Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor, City of Seattle  
The Honorable Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources,  
Province of British Columbia